



[Crossing Points](#) at [Liverpool Playhouse](#)

Performed by [Phoenix Dance Theatre](#)

Reviewed by [Jennifer Iddon](#) March 2012

A good few years ago I undertook a Performing Arts course and on the whole embraced every aspect of the course except the dreaded **movement class**. I disliked the movement classes and if like at school there had of been a report at the end of the year I would have definitely been in the 'must try harder' category. I could not get the point of the classes, imagine the stereotype scenario of a movement class whilst reciting phases like 'feel the space' and 'let your movements be organic'. You're possibly getting the picture.

However, not one to easily dismiss things, after completing my course I decided to explore the areas of physical theatre and contemporary dance and one of the first performances I saw was by **Phoenix Dance Theatre**, performing a piece called **Planted Seeds** by choreographer Darshan Singh Bhuller. I cannot recall fully what happened in the piece, a work reflecting on the abuse of human rights in the former Yugoslavia, but over ten years since I can still remember how I felt having seen

Planted Seeds

, and how emotive it was. It was beautifully executed yet brutal, sometimes too shocking to watch but equally too compelling not to. I came out of the theatre feeling emotionally drained but wanting more; I was hooked and so began my love of contemporary dance and physical

theatre.

So it was with some trepidation that I agreed to review Phoenix Dance Theatre on this visit to the Liverpool Playhouse, because the company was my introduction to contemporary dance and they unwittingly set the benchmark on which I have compared other performances against. My expectations for **Crossing Points** were set high – so did they deliver?

Crossing Points comprised of four separate pieces: two new works, ***Catch*** and ***SoundClash***, and two established works

Signal

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Maybe Yes Maybe, Maybe No Maybe

. The company's artistic director Sharon Watson described a dance programme being like a meal in that you may like different bits to varying degrees; so you may love the starter, think the main is okay and adore the desert. Well I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed the meal Phoenix Dance Theatre served up on Friday evening and that I was left equally satisfied and hungry for more.



